# FERNALD FACT SHEET ~
# DECONTAMINATION AND DEMOLITION PROJECT

DEMOLITION


**From 1952 to 1989, the Fernald site produced 500 million pounds of pure uranium metal products** for the nation's Cold War defense program. When the site ceased operations in 1989 because of declines in demand for Fernald's products and increasing environmental concerns, 31 million net pounds of nuclear product, 2.5 billion pounds of waste and 2.5 million cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris remained on site. Since then, Fernald workers have been dedicated to the environmental remediation of the 1,050-acre site.

**In 1986, Fernald began a 10-year environmental site investigation to determine contamination levels and develop cleanup plans.** The investigation resulted in Records of Decision, or final cleanup plans, for five operable units. Operable Unit 3 encompasses the decontamination and dismantlement of 223 buildings and affiliated compounds, including ten major processsing plants that produced high-purity uranium metal for nearly four decades. In 1989, when production ceased, the plants still contained uranium products in various stages of completion.

**To expedite decontamination and demolition of the aging plants, the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) signed an interim Record of Decision in 1994.** Under this agreement, Fernald could begin demolition activities and stockpile the debris on site until DOE made a decision about long-term waste disposal. In 1995, after considering stakeholder input, DOE approved a sitewide disposal strategy that entails transporting smaller volumes of more highly-contaminated materials off site for disposal while containing larger volumes of low-level contaminated materials on site in an engineered On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF). The OSDF is designed to hold 2.5 million cubic yards of waste. To reduce volume, Fernald continually evaluates recycling options and new technologies.

*PHOTO: Shears dismantle the structural steel of Plant 6, a Cold War-era uranium production facility (6639-D1193).*